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**RUSSWARD
Saintpaulia Growers**

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News Letter

February, 1950

Hello there!

Let's talk about growing Violets in water. Many Violet collectors are plagued needlessly with the problems involving soil: where to get it, sterilization, correct mixtures, to say nothing of the insects and fungi which breed therein. Soil-less culture is a boon particularly to those city and apartment-dwellers to whom the source of plain old dirt is a never-ending headache, and also to collectors whose jobs limit the time which may be spent on their collections.

Many people have written asking how to proceed with this type of culture. Perhaps a few suggestions here would be timely.

Plain old water will grow a right nice plant, but better results will be obtained if nutrients are added. If such chemicals as sulphate of ammonia, nitrates, and super-phosphate are available it might be interesting for the collector to "mix his own." Those who retain unpleasant memories of schoolday chemistry labs, however, will want to use a prepared commercial product such as Hyponex. The formula for water or sand culture will be given on the package.

Any container will do so long as it is not made of metal. All types of bowls, ornamental cups, pitchers, low vases, compotes, jardinières, and so on may be used. Don't worry too much about getting one big enough. You will find that enormous plants may be grown with the root system confined to a tiny space.

Your plants may be grown in solution alone, or you may wish to support the roots with such inert matter as sand or vermiculite. Proceed thus for solution alone:

I. Let's suppose you have an old beat-up Blue Boy you don't mind experimenting with on your

first try. Knock it out of the pot. Gently wash off as much of the dirt as will come. If some sticks to the roots, leave it there rather than damage the roots. It will come off in the water in a week or two, anyway.

II. Fill the container with solution to within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the top.

III. Now. If your plant has strong, flat-growing outer leaves which will support it in the container you have chosen, fine. If it hasn't these strong leaves, however, you will need some short lengths of straight wire to hold it in place. Arrange two or three pieces of wire to make a rudimentary little frame to suspend the plant in the water. The water level should come just to the base of the crown.

IV. Wipe off any excess water you might have splashed on the leaves and put the plant back in its old place. Try to get around to changing the water once a week. Add more solution as needed to keep the level up to the base of the crown.

If you prefer to use sand or vermiculite for your plants, do this:

I. Knock plant out of the pot and wash off the dirt.

II. Pot up exactly as you would with soil. Spread the roots as much as possible. Moisten with solution. (DO NOT FLOOD).

III. Care: If the container has no drain-hole, add solution as it is needed to maintain an even moisture. If valuable containers, such as antique bowls or vases, are used, monthly shifting of the container is advised. A hard white crust will form around the inside edge which is difficult to remove if allowed to accumulate. Shifting of the root-ball is easily accomplished by flooding with solution. Lift out the plant with roots and adhering sand or vermiculite, transfer to a fresh container, and add fresh sand or vermiculite as required.

If a container with a drain-hole is used, follow the same procedure as with growing in soil, except for the watering solution. It will be noted that plants in vermiculite or sand will require more water (solution) than those in soil.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?



Having Trouble with your plants? We're always glad to help with individual problems. We can give you much more accurate information if you include such items as: What soil are you using? Do you fertilize, and how much? Have you changed your routine care in the

last six weeks (previous to the start of the trouble?) Have your violets been "exposed" to other diseased plants?

Rot Warning: February to June is the time when rots flourish. Try not to water at all unless the sun is shining brightly.

Yours,

"Russ"

PRICE LIST

We Ship All Winter. If the weather prevents shipping of your order, you will be notified, and shipment will be made as soon as possible. We do not book orders. If we are still unable to ship your plants ten days after we have received your order, your money will be returned unless you request otherwise.

***Amethyst, West Coast**—Medium large plant. Pale orchid blossoms in profusion. Dark tapered foliage **\$1.50**

***Bi-Color**—Two upper petals deep red-violet, three lower, pale lavender. Slick foliage. Large plant **\$1.50**

Blue Amazon—Dark Velvety blue flowers. Heavy, supreme-type foliage **\$1.50**

***Blue Boy**—Some good husky plants of this variety to offer. Fine dark blue. Favorite for years..... **\$1.25**

Sustaining Member African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Gift wrapping on request.

[illegible]

ARKANSAS CUSTOMERS: ADD 2% SALES TAX

Cut Along Dotted Line

***Blue Butterfly**—Yes, we have some more of these. Light blue, large slick heart-shaped leaves.....\$2.00

***Blue Eyes**—Good-looking plant. Pale blue. Foliage very slick and dark. Rather flat habit of growth \$1.50

***Blue Girl**—(Pat'd) Well known, by now, to all violet enthusiasts. Scalloped foliage, dark blue blossom \$1.25

Blue Girl Amazon—Or Blue Girl Supreme. Ditto Blue Amazon except for leaf scalloping and white dot at base of leaf \$1.50

***Blue Velvet**—Neat little plant. Dark green, quilted rather round leaves. Clear, medium blue blossom \$1.50

Blush Amazon—Or Blush Supreme. Pale pink version of the handsome Amazon strain. Heavy, magnificent foliage. Immense flowers \$1.50

***Blush Maid**—Blush Beauty, Blush Lady, Blushing Maiden. Lovely shell pink. Pink Beauty-type foliage \$1.25

***Brown's Pet**—Darling little miniature Blue Girl. Sweet. Guaranteed distinct from any of the other Girl types offered by us \$2.00

***Dickson's Purple**—A really fine variety. Intense blue. Fine foliage \$1.75

***Dainty Maid**—Lovely little pink. Rosette type growth. Distinct for its White Lady foliage...\$1.50

***Double Duchess**—Also known as Double Blue Boy, Double Russian, Double Dipper, etc. Profuse double purple flowers against medium green foliage \$1.50

Double Duchess Amazon—or Double Duchess Supreme. Dark blue, large double flower. For best blooming, divide these multiple-crown plants \$2.00

Double Orchid—Medium size plant. Leaf more tapered than Duchess. Plant grows faster. Lovely orchid shade \$2.00

DuPont Hybrids 1, 5, and Silver Pink—Aristocrats of the Violet world

\$2.50 each, or the three for \$6.50

***DuPont Lavender Pink—Bi-Color tendency. Darker than Silver Pink** **\$1.75**

DuPont Red—Glad to offer this again. Rich claret-colored flowers, DuPont foliage **\$2.25**

Jade—Another plant which has enjoyed great popularity. Medium blue flower. Magnificent lightly-quilted foliage **\$2.00**

***Kewensis—Light green foliage, medium pale blue flowers. Very unusual in appearance** **\$1.50**

***Lady Geneva—(Pat'd) Distinctive for the white border around the deep blue blossom** **\$3.00**

***Lavender Lady—Medium lavender shade. Dark green foliage. Profuse bloomer** **\$1.25**

***Mentor Boy—Another dandy dark blue. Quilted foliage. Grows quite large** **\$1.25**

***Old Lace—Small plant. Deeply scalloped leaves with very pronounced white marking at base of leaf. Dark blue flowers** **\$1.75**

***Orchid Beauty—Also Mary Wac, Rosy Blue. Medium-sized, rather upright plant. Pink Beauty-type foliage. Flowers clear red-lavender. Profuse** **\$1.25**

***Pink Beauty (Pat'd)—Pink flowers, medium green foliage** **\$1.25**

***Pink Girl (Pat'd)—A valuable addition to the "Girl" group, first time offered by us. Profuse bloomer** **\$2.00**

***Purple Prince—Extremely dark purple. Slick, heart-shaped foliage** **\$1.50**

***Red Girl**—Also called Orchid Girl. Familiar Girl foliage with red-lavender blooms which turn lighter after they have opened \$1.25

***Red Head**—Rich claret red. Slick, tailored foliage. A continuing favorite \$1.75

***Ruffles**—Extremely dark green tapered leaves with red-purple reverse. Flowers medium blue \$2.00

***Starlight**—Or Waterlily. Lovely pale blue flowers, dusty-green, rather rounded leaves.....\$2.00

***Thirty-Two**—Flower about the shade of Lavender Lady, but much larger. Glossy neat foliage. Strictly an improved plant \$1.75

Viking — Also known as Royal Sunset—One of the best of the dark blues. Slick, dark green leaves have quite a bit of red underneath.....\$1.25

White Amazon—Or White Supreme. Large, heavy leaves, immense white flowers \$1.75

***White Lady**—(Pat'd) Glistening white blossoms against medium green foliage \$1.25

***In Bloom**

Nnor—6 oz. size \$1.00

Sodium Selenate—Small vial treats 150 plants. Instructions included.....\$1.00

Hyponex—1 pound can \$1.00

Vermiculite—Box 7x7x1475

Wik-Fed Pots—Ivory only. 4" size. Each \$1.15
3 for \$3.00
6 for \$5.50
